

AUG 3 1981

No identification yet on Coroner dead woman

HAYWARD — The body of a woman washed ashore Sunday night just southeast of the San Mateo Bridge toll plaza remained unidentified at the Alameda County Coroner's Department this morning.

A coroner's spokesman said iden-

tification was difficult because of the condition of the body.

Police Sunday night said a passing motorist notified authorities at 7:30 p.m. that a bound and clad body was lying on the shore.

Lt. Bill Christensen said the woman, of undetermined age, was

clad in a turquoise tank top and cutoff jeans and was bound hand and leg.

Police this morning were ruling the death as a murder, but were unable to say where the body was dumped.

Police seek clues in death

AUG 23 1981
HAYWARD — Police have no new leads in the death of 23-year-old Emma Marie Garcia and are requesting help from the public to solve the case.

Police Detective Don Olson said the Hayward woman was last seen July 26 near the downtown BART station. She was wearing a blue top, designer jeans and a jacket with plum, pink and powder blue stripes, he said.

Her body was found Aug. 1 just southeast of the Hayward-San Mateo Bridge toll plaza, Olson said.

A passing motorist saw the body

about 7:30 p.m. and notified police. She was clad in a turquoise tank top and cutoff jeans. Her hands and legs were bound, Olson said.

The Alameda County coroner's office has not determined the cause of death since her body was badly decomposed. Death from a shooting, stabbing and beating have been ruled out, Olson said.

Olson said Ms. Garcia was well-known in the Hayward area among drug traffickers. Anyone with information about her death should contact Olson at 881-7004.

Troubled life ends in murder

By Kathleen Stone
Staff writer

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HAYWARD — She was a shy and beautiful young woman, a devoted mother, and a heroin addict who became a police informant.

Those who knew Emma Marie Garcia described her in different ways, but they all said her love and devotion to her young son were the driving force in her life.

That devotion led Emma Garcia to Hayward police in June, when she decided to become an informant and "clean up Hayward" for her son, court records reveal.

It also led to her grisly murder — a murder that police have been unable to solve. And now officers are turning to the public for any clue that might solve the case.

Ms. Garcia's tangled life didn't begin last June, when she contacted police through a statewide citizen information network. It began 23 years ago when she was born in Hayward.

Her brother, 26-year-old Narcy Nunez of Hayward, said hard times punctuated his sister's life. She never knew her father. Her mother, also a heroin addict, died as she watched.

She married, she had a child and she separated — all while heroin cinched its grip on her life.

"After watching my mother die, drugs turned me off," Nunez said. "But that's the kind of life she knew."

Nunez said she had scrapes with the law in South County and in Los Angeles, where she lived with relatives for three years.

Then something changed. Police reports said she didn't give up her drug habit, but she feared her son, nearly 2 years old, would be influenced by drugs.

So she called police and provided them with information about an area drug dealer and another dealer she described as a "big man who dealt heroin all over the San Francisco Bay Area," court documents show.



Emma Marie Garcia

She went to police freely. Police records show she had no pending criminal from Terrance Lee Greenfield, 33, of San Carlos.

cases against her, she didn't want money for information and she had never been an informant before.

Hayward police narcotics officers said this week they wouldn't confirm or deny Ms. Garcia's role because they want to keep sources confidential.

But police reports, search warrants and other court documents show she worked with Hayward and San Carlos police and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department to purchase heroin June 22

Based on that sale, police obtained a

search warrant for Greenfield's home at 230 Hillcrest Road, where Greenfield and his girlfriend, Christine L. Phelps, 23, were arrested. They were charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of heroin and cocaine, and possession of heroin for sale. They are free on bail while awaiting trial in San Mateo County on those charges.

Greenfield was not charged with the sale of heroin to Ms. Garcia to avoid disclosing her identity.

But Greenfield wanted to know who "set him up," according to a search warrant contained in court files.

The warrant said Greenfield allegedly hired a private investigator and suspected Ms. Garcia since she bought heroin from Greenfield the same day he was busted.

After his arrest, court records show, Greenfield refused to sell drugs to her while still supplying drugs to others in the area.

On June 24, Greenfield called Ms. Garcia and they decided to meet. She told a Hayward narcotics officer she was afraid Greenfield would be suspicious if she didn't meet him, records indicate.

She was last seen July 26 by a friend who drove her to the Hayward BART station to catch a train to Daly City.

Seven days later, her body was found washed ashore just southeast of the Hayward-San Mateo Bridge toll plaza. Her hands and legs were bound. She was gagged and two weights were attached to her body.

The Alameda County coroner's office determined that she drowned.

Greenfield was a suspect immediately, but police say they haven't been able to tie him to the murder.

Emma Garcia's memory lives on for her friends and family. One friend, who asked to remain anonymous, said, "She was a cut above the rest."

"She was a giving person. She was not open about her (drug) habit," a former roommate said. "She was good mother, too. Her son was the most important

person in her life."

Isabel Santiago, a friend of Ms. Garcia's, remembers the woman's politeness and devotion to her son. "She wouldn't let that baby out of her sight."

"She was always respectful. I think she was trying to find someone in life who really cared for her," Mrs. Santiago said.

Ms. Garcia's brother said he first became concerned about her disappearance when her girlfriend, Aurora Ortega, told him Ms. Garcia had left the baby with her and hadn't come back.

"The baby went everywhere with her. I knew something was wrong then,"

'She knew the dangers and risk she was taking.'

Nunez said.

Nunez believes his sister aided police to impress her Army sergeant husband, with whom she wanted to get back together, and to help her son.

"She was independent. She knew the dangers and the risk she was taking," he said about her working with the police.

Ms. Ortega kept the baby until Ms. Garcia's body was found. Now the baby is living in Hayward with Ms. Garcia's husband, David Rodriguez. Rodriguez could not be reached for comment. Ms. Ortega has moved from her Hayward apartment.

"She was all I had," Nunez said. "No one had the right to take her away." Nunez and Ms. Garcia were the only children in their family.

"No one deserves to die the way she did. I know she was thinking about me, though. When she'd get frightened, she'd act like a little girl and call for me," her brother said tearfully.

Anyone with information about the murder should contact Hayward police at 881-7004 or the Silent Witness program at 786-2319.